

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-19 are currently pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, claim 1 has been amended, and claim 20 has been added. No new matter has been added, and support for the instant amendment may be found at least in FIG. 4B and its corresponding text. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

A. Summary of Outstanding Rejections

In the Advisory Action dated October 1, 2007 the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-2, 6, 9-15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,062,681 to Field et al. (“the Field et al. reference”); maintained the rejection of claims 3-5 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Field et al. reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,751,317 to Peeters et al. (“the Peeters et al. reference”); and maintained the rejection of claims 16-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Field et al. reference.

B. Asserted Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1-2, 6, 9-15 and 18

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 6, 9-15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Field et al. reference. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the micro-pump includes, *inter alia*, fluid entrance and fluid exit “connected directly between the pumping chamber and a respective manifold... and wherein a cross-sectional area of at least one of the fluid entrance and the fluid exit varies along a direction of the fluid flow to have a constant inclination angle along its entire length.” The Field et al. reference, on the other hand, neither teaches nor even remotely suggests a micro pump having a similar structure of fluid inlet/outlet portions.

In this respect, applicants direct the Examiner’s attention to FIG. 1A of the Field et al. reference and as reproduced below.

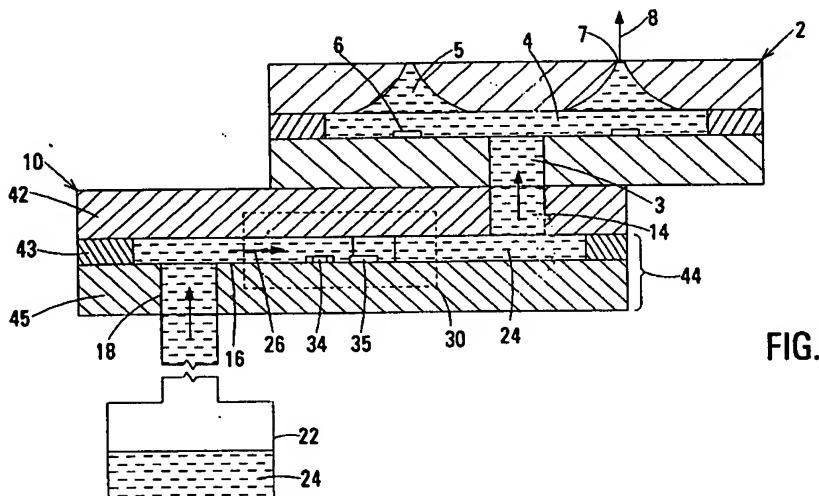


FIG. 1A

As may be seen in FIG. 1A of the Field et al. reference, neither of the cross sections of the ink inlet 18 and ink outlet 14, i.e., inlet/outlet portions between the pumping chamber and respective manifolds, varies to have a constant inclination angle along its length. In fact, the Field et al. reference teaches inlet/outlet portions having *rectangular cross-sectional areas* between the pumping chamber and the manifolds. Accordingly, the Field et al. reference clearly does not anticipate or even remotely suggests the subject matter of claim 1.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the Field et al. reference fails to anticipate each and every element of claim 1, and therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 and claims dependent thereon be favorably reconsidered and withdrawn.

C. Asserted Obviousness Rejections of Claims 3-5, 7-8, 16-17, and 19

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claims 3-5 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Field et al. reference in view of the Peeters et al. reference; and rejected claims 16-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Field et al. reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to teach each and every element of amended independent claim 1, and therefore,

claims 3-5, 7-8, 16-17, and 19 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above regarding claim 1.

D. New Claims 20

Claim 20 is added by the instant amendment. No new matter is added, and support for this claim may be found at least in FIG. 4B of the original application as filed and its corresponding text. Applicants respectfully request entry and examination of claim 20.

E. Conclusion

The above remarks demonstrate the failings of the Examiner's arguments with respect to the outstanding rejection, and are sufficient to overcome them. However, these remarks are not intended to, nor need they, comprehensively address each and every reason for the patentability of the claimed subject matter over the applied prior art. Accordingly, applicants *do not* contend that the claims are patentable solely on the basis of the particular claim elements discussed above.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.